(14) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(15) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry' of SJ&E has established six National/ Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field *ot* education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(16) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to.

Inability of IRCC to carry out suggestions by NCSC & ST

2553. SHRI GANDHI AZAD ; Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 59 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th Feb.. 2000 and state the reasons for expressing inability by IRCC to carry out Commission's suggestions made in letter dated 29th January, 1998 and 22nd January, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : The Commission's suggestions relate to the promotion of Shri Anil Kumar, Senior Manager (P) and of Shri Phool Chand, Deputy Manager (P). These fall within Group A, where no reservation for SC/ST is applicable. After 1993, no further promotions were effected in IRCC in any cadre and the Board, in view of the Government decision to close down the Corporation, has decided not to make any promotion till fiirther orders.

As regards seniority and financial benefits to these SC/ST officers are concerned, the matter was placed before Board of Director of IRCC on 26th June, 1999. After detailed consideration of the rules and regulations on the

subject, the Board decided that financial benefits can only be effective from the date of assumption of charge in the higher rank and no arrears are payable from the date of notional fixation of pay consequent to promotion based on review DPC.

Welfare SchemEs for SCs/STs in far flung areas in H.P.

2554. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes/programmes for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and those living in far flung areas in Himachal Pradesh, together with the funds sanctioned;

(b) whether Government review these programmes from time to time;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) what are the details of achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (d) All schemes implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are aimed at the welfare of weaker sections of society and *inter alia* also cover the state of Himachal Pradesh. The details of the schemes for the welfare of SCs & STs are enclosed in the Statement *{see* below) The information regarding funds sanctioned by the Ministry of various schemes for welfare of SC/ST and details of physical achievement are being collected.

(b) and (c) Review of all the schemes are undertaken with a view to make them user-friendly, flexible, enhance their coverage and usefullness, revise the financial norms in keeping with changes in the price-index, and to achieve better targeting of the beneficiaries This is an on-going exercise The regular monitoring of the implementation of the schemes is however, done by the respective State Governments and reports are sought from them from time to time. No district-wise review of schemes is done by the Ministry.